ODP 4316-77

Mr. Randy McIntosh
Box 2400 - Elwell
Bloomsburg State College
Bloomsburg, Pa. 17815

Dear Mr. McIntosh:

Thank you for your interest in CIA and our use of computers. Your assumption that CIA relies heavily on computers is correct. Naturally, security prevents us from discussing any particular application in detail, othe than routine administrative functions. However, we can state that the computer is an invaluable and highly powerful tool in collecting, analyzing, and producing intelligence. I have enclosed some material which you may find useful in your study of computers and how they are used.

The dangers associated with the use of computers have been the subject of numerous studies. For example, Senator Ribicoff reported to the U.S. Senate on a preliminary staff investigation concerning problems associated with computer applications in Federal programs. The investigation placed special focus on the capability of the executive branch to secure its computer systems against compromise, unauthorized access, and physical damage. His report is recorded in the Congressional Record of February 2, 1977, Vol. 123, No. 19. A quote from this report may give you the CIA view on computer security that you are looking for, i.e., page 8, paragraphs 9 and 10:

"Owing to their national security mission and the fact that this mission leads them to think in terms of securing an installation as well as attesting to the suitability of those who work there, the defense and intelligence communities have more experience in safeguarding their own ADP systems. CIA spokesmen, for example, told the committee staff that they operate on the assumption that, first, a computer system can be penetrated, and, second, that an attempt will be made to penetrate it. Therefore, the CIA spokesmen said, they try to design and manage their computer systems in a way that makes a single compromise of less impact. Defense Department spokesmen gave the committee staff similar information.

"CIA Director George Bush, in the statement he gave to the committee, said he did not think his organization should serve as a model for other Federal agencies in the computer security field. The committee staff agrees. But it is the staff's view that, in light of the potential for criminal compromise in the computer field, the fundamental principal defense and intelligence gathering agencies adhere to--that every system is able to be compromised; and that, therefore, an attempt will be made to achieve that compromise--has value throughout the executive branch. It is a principal all Government ADP officials should keep in mind when they set out to design, purchase, operate and manage their own non-defense computer programs."

A more comprehensive study of computer abuses is contained in "Problems Associated With Computer Technology in Federal Programs and Private Industry," prepared by the Committee on Government Operations, United States Senate, dated June 1976, U.S. Government Printing Office Publication No. 72-5380 (sale price $3.95). I have enclosed a copy of this document's Table of Contents for your reference.

Another publication you might find of interest is "The Rules and Regulations for Access to the Systems of Records of the Central Intelligence Agency Subject to the Privacy Act of 1974." These rules and a description of the CIA files they apply to are contained in pages 48050 through 48074, and pages 48269 through 48271 of The Federal Register, Vol. 42, No. 184, Thursday, September 22, 1977. This publication makes it clear that the CIA is subject to and is complying with the Federal law that protects U.S. citizens and resident aliens from a misuse of personal data by Federal agencies.

Again, thank you for your interest in CIA. I hope the reply is helpful and wish you success in your studies.

Sincerely,

STATINTL

Att: a/s

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TRANSMITTAL SLIP	6 Dec 77

TO: Executive Officer, ODP

ROOM NO.	BUILDING
2D00	

REMARKS:

    Attached is a letter we have received asking for information and pamphlets in the computer field. Would you please draft a reply for me and enclose the appropriate material if any is available.

Thank you.

STATINTL

FROM: ███████████████████ , O/DCI/PAO

ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION
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FORM NO. 241
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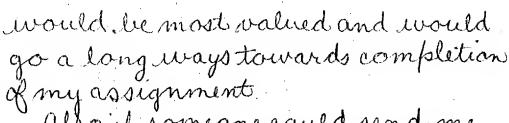REPLACES FORM 36-8
WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

Dear Sir,

As a student at Bloomsburg, one of the courses that I am taking this semester is called "Computers and Society." This course deals with societal issues (ie. privacy, employment, crime), people's attitudes, and technological facts of the computer.

For the topic of people's attitudes, I am required to get information and opinions of people in different fields of computer use. Since the CIA relies heavily on it's use of computers for it's work, I felt that the opinion of your agency would be one of the most valued of any I might get.

Do you think that it is at all possible for someone to write a few lines giving both beneficial and detrimental views as to the use of the computer in dealing with both intelligence and security? Any information whatsoever

would. be most valued and would go a long ways towards completion of my assignment.

Also if someone could send me some technical material concerning computers, such as pamphlets, I would be truly grateful.

As a history major, I have long taken a great interest in our national security and intelligence services. This area has always caught my admirement because of all the technical equipment and machinery involved. Although this request might seem outrageous, as do the others, I was wondering if you also could send along information dealing with your work.

Thank you for your attention, consideration, and most of all patience in this letter.

Sincerely,
Randall McIntosh →

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)
Letter from Randy McIntosh, Bloomsburg, Pa.

FROM:	EXTENSION	NO.
D/ODP/DDA		ODP 4316-77
2-D-00 HQS. x4011		DATE 15 December 1977

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
STATINTL				
1. ████████████ O/DCI/PAO, 1F04, Hq.				If you can find one, you might also enclose a copy of CIA's Bicentennial Publication on *Intelligence in the War of Independence*, since Mr. McIntosh is a history student.
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